

Message Text

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70

ACTION NEA-10

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INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 /074 W

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2915

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL CAL KTTA

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 16928

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: XO, IN, MILI

SUBJECT: INDIAN NAVY SURVEILLED

1. THE CHIEF OF THE NAVAL STAFF, ADMIRAL S.N. KOHLI, TOLD NEWSMEN IN CALCUTTA ON DEC. 17 THAT THE INDIAN NAVY IS UNDER THE SURVEILLANCE OF LONG-DISTANCE RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT. ACCORDING TO THE CPI DAILY PATRIOT KOHLI SAID THE SURVEILLANCE, CONDUCTED BY THE LONG RANGE AIRCRAFT OF SOME FOREIGN COUNTRIES, WAS CONSTANT. THE TIMES OF INDIA ACCOUNT MADE NO REFERENCE TO THE FREQUENCY OR SOURCES OF THE AIRCRAFT.

2. IN THE SAME INTERVIEW KOHLI ALSO SAID THAT SIX OR SEVEN INDIAN OCEAN LITTORAL COUNTRIES ARE ACQUIRING FRENCH DAPHNE AND SUPER DAPHNE SUBMARINES. HE Y AID THE INDIAN NAVY REQUIRED SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN THE PRODUCTION OF NAVAL SHIPS AND WEAPONS SYSTEMS TO MEET "THIS SOPHISTICATED THREAT," AND AFFIRMED HIS CONFIDENCE IN INDIAN INGENUITY.

3. COMMENT: KOHLI'S OBSERVATIONS ARE A VARIATION OF WHAT HE
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HAS BEEN SAYING IN PUBLIC SPEECHES FOR THE PAST SEVERAL

MONTHS. HIS REFERENCE TO AIR SURVEILLANCE WAS NEW, HOWEVER,
AND MAY BE RELATED TO THE CHIDING THE US RECEIVED AT THE MEA
IN DECEMBER. WE KNOW AND KOHLI KNOWS THAT US P-3S ARE NOT THE
ONLY LONG DISTANCE PLANES WHICH PATROL THE INDIAN OCEAN,
BUT THE VAGUE "SOME COUNTRIES" FORMULA IS ALL TOO OFTEN READ
TO MEAN US BY THE AVERAGE INDIAN READER.
SAXBE

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